

Fiscal Services Division

Legislative Services Agency

Fiscal Note

HF 742 – Off Highway Vehicles (LSB 1411 HV)

Analyst: Debra Kozel (Phone: (515) 281-6767) (deb.kozel@legis.state.ia.us)

Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

House File 742 makes the following changes for registering and operating a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicles (ATV) in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR):

- Implements an electronic registration and renewal system.
- Allows a one-time registration fee of \$25.00 for a snowmobile that is more than 30 years old.
- Requires a non-resident to obtain a user permit fee when operating a snowmobile or ATV in Iowa for an annual fee of \$15.00 plus an administrative fee.
- Allows an unregistered snowmobile or ATV to be registered for a cost of \$20.00 after September 1 of each year. This includes a \$5.00 registration fee for the remainder of the current year and \$15.00 for the following year. The snowmobile owner saves \$10.00 on the current year registration.
- Extends the time period to register a new snowmobile or ATV with the DNR from 10 days to 45 days.
- Specifies the county writing fee for registration is \$1.25 and the writing fee or a license agent is \$1.00.
- Revises scheduled fines for snowmobile violations that are deposited in the General Fund.
- Allows the Department to charge fees for certified instruction courses. The fees will not exceed the actual cost of the course.
- Specifies persons over age 12, but under age 18 cannot operate an ATV on public land or ice, or land purchased with ATV registration funds, without a safety certificate issued by the DNR.
- Specifies persons under the age of 12 cannot operate an ATV or off-road motorcycle unless the person is taking the Department's Safety Course and is being supervised by the instructor or being supervised by a responsible person 18 years or older that is experienced with off-road motorcycles and has a valid driver's license or safety certificate issued by the DNR.
- Specifies that a person convicted of a violation while their registration privilege has been suspended or revoked is guilty of the following:
 - A simple misdemeanor if the person had no other violations within the previous three years.
 - A serious misdemeanor if the person had one other violation in the previous three years.
 - An aggravated misdemeanor if the person had two or more convictions in the past three years.

Background

The registration fees for snowmobiles changed from a biennial fee of \$25.00 to an annual fee of \$15.00 beginning in FY 2005. This Bill implements procedures to increase the efficiency of snowmobile and ATV registration.

Assumptions

- It is estimated there are 35,000 resident operators of snowmobiles and 200 non-resident operators of snowmobiles in Iowa. It is estimated there are 54,000 ATV resident operators in Iowa and the annual growth rate is estimated at 3.0% per year.
- It is estimated that registration revenues will increase by \$225,000 in FY 2008 and \$250,000 in FY 2009. The increased funding will leverage additional National Recreational Trail federal funds that require a 20.0% State match.
- It is estimated that administrative and enforcement expenditures related to the Program will increase by \$150,000 per year.
- The average State costs for one simple misdemeanor conviction ranges from \$20 (court costs) to \$320 (court costs plus indigent defense).
- The average State costs for one serious misdemeanor conviction ranges from \$110 (court costs) to \$3,300 (court costs, jury trial, indigent defense, and prison).
- The average State costs for one aggravated misdemeanor conviction ranges from \$2,600 (court costs and probation) to \$6,300 (court costs, jury trial, indigent defense, prison and parole). The maximum costs will be incurred across multiple years while the offender is supervised in the correctional system, either in prison or in the community.

Correctional Impact

The correctional impact of HF 742 is expected to be minimal.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact of HF 742 is an estimated increase in revenue to the Snowmobile Registration Fund and ATV Registration Fund of \$225,000 for FY 2008 and \$250,000 for FY 2009. Related program expenditures in the DNR are estimated to increase by \$150,000 for FY 2008 and each year after. Remaining funds will be used for cost-share grants to local communities and is estimated to increase by \$75,000 for FY 2008 and \$100,000 for FY 2009.

Sources

Department of Human Rights, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division
Department of Natural Resources

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 12, 2007

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.
